



ANIMAL FARM



DISCOVERING THE ALLEGORY

Two-Part Series News Report Project Honors Foundations- Miss Detrick

YOUR MISSION: Imagine you are a news reporter covering the latest breaking news story. Perhaps, for example, you are getting your first break covering Superstorm Sandy and you are out in the crashing waves doing your best to deliver people the absolute latest details of the storm. On the other hand, perhaps you are a gossip news reporter for E! and you are responsible for reporting on Demi Lovato's terrible rendition of the National Anthem. As a reporter, you are responsible for gathering research and checking your facts. Part of your job, too, is making judgments on the claims you make based on the evidence provided. For your *Animal Farm* project, you will become a news reporter gathering facts about the events and people in the Russian Revolution. With a group you will be creating a video news report. You will need to become an expert on your group's topic related to the Russian Revolution, as your group is responsible for teaching the class about that section of history.

TOPICS: You have now finished studying the plot of *Animal Farm*. In order to completely understand the allegory present in the story, however, you must delve deeper into the history of the Russian Revolution to see the brilliance behind Orwell's work. Each group in this class will have one topic related to the Russian Revolution that they must compare to the events in *Animal Farm*. In order to do this, you must thoroughly research your topic and create a script for a two-part series news report. The first part of the video will focus on the real-life person or event and the second part will discuss the imagined character or event found in *Animal Farm*. The conclusion of the video will have you explain the parallels between the two.

YOUR TOPIC: _____

RESEARCH: Students often wonder why they have to do research. Of all the skills taught in English class, research is probably the one that you will use more than any other in your lifetime. You will use it to buy a car or house, to advance yourself in business, to decide how to vote on candidates and issues, to learn more about raising children, investing money, and a myriad of other "issues" in life. To do these, you will need to know where to go for information, how to gather it, and how to evaluate the worth or truth of that information. Once you have the information, you will need to draw conclusions and make decisions based on what you have learned. At times you will need to present your research to others in order to improve and make changes in the lives of family, community, state, and nation. Over the course of your four years at WSHS, you will learn and practice the skills that will make you a successful researcher. We will begin at the beginning to make sure you know how to correctly gather necessary research information and how to correctly cite it for use in your *Animal Farm* project.

MLA AND PLAGIARISM: Many of you have written multi-paragraph papers or multi-step projects, but for most of you, all the information in these papers/projects was out of your own head. When a person composes a paper or project based on research, he/she must have a way to give credit to the sources from which the research came and a way to distinguish between information from sources and information from the writer's own brain. This giving credit is called **documentation**. While there are several systems that can be used to do this, the one most commonly used at WSHS (and the one used at most colleges) was created by the **Modern Language Association** or **MLA** for short. While this system may seem very complicated at first, with a bit of practice you will find it is not hard to use. There are many models to follow both in this guide and in handbooks in the library and on the Internet.

Why is it so important to use the MLA system? Authors, film makers, song writers, etc. make their livings by what they create. To take their words or ideas and claim them for your own is committing **plagiarism**. Plagiarism is defined as the "taking of ideas or words from another and presenting them as one's own." Morally and legally, plagiarism is wrong, and it is important to understand how to avoid committing this deed. Academically, plagiarism is grounds for receiving a failing grade (not just at WSHS but also in college). In the "real world" it is grounds for lawsuits.